

**“The world must not be introduced into the church, and married to the church, forming a bond of unity. Through this means the church will become indeed corrupt and, as stated in Revelation, ‘a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.’ ”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 265.**

# Warnings to the Church

**PART ONE OF THREE**

**“Men of experience have seen stealthy hands slipping the bolts that Satan might enter; yet they have held their peace with apparent indifference as to the results.”—4 *Testimonies*, 211.**

**We have received a flood of light, unmatched by that received by the professed people of God in any former era of earth’s history. Our opportunities to live godly lives and witness to God’s final truths are unparalleled. But deeply solemn is the responsibility that we will bear in the great day of God,—if we do not heed the earnest warnings given us.**

**It is not yet too late for some of us; but, day by day, we are nearing the end. Please read these earnest appeals; and plead with God for forgiveness and enabling strength, through the grace of Christ, to make the needed changes.**

**“The church needs to awake to an understanding of the subtle powers of satanic agencies that must be met. If they will keep on the whole armor, they will be able to conquer all the foes they meet, some of which are not yet developed.**

**“Confederacies will increase in number and power as we draw nearer to the end of time. These confederacies will create opposing influences to the truth, forming new parties of professed believers who will act out their own delusive theories. The apostasy will increase. ‘Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.’ Men and women have confederated to oppose the Lord God of heaven, and the church is only half awake to the situation. There needs to be much more prayer, much more of earnest effort, among professed believers.”—*Evangelism*, 362-363.**

**“The crisis is fast approaching. The rapidly swelling figures show that the time for God’s visitation has about come. Although loath to**

**punish, nevertheless He will punish, and that speedily.** Those who walk in the light will see signs of the approaching peril; but they are not to sit in quiet, unconcerned expectancy of the ruin, comforting themselves with the belief that God will shelter His people in the day of visitation. Far from it. **They should realize that it is their duty to labor diligently to save others, looking with strong faith to God for help.** ‘The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.’

**“The leaven of godliness has not entirely lost its power. At the time when the danger and depression of the church are greatest, the little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church** because its members are doing after the manner of the world.

**“The earnest prayers of this faithful few will not be in vain. When the Lord comes forth as an avenger, He will also come as a protector of all those who have preserved the faith in its purity and kept themselves unspotted from the world. It is at this time that God has promised to avenge His own elect which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them.”—5 *Testimonies*, 209-210.**

**“Let the church arise, and repent of her backslidings before God. Let the watchmen awake, and give the trumpet a certain sound.** It is a definite warning that we have to proclaim. God commands His servants, ‘Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and **shew My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins**’ (Isa. 58:1). The attention of the people must be gained; unless this can be done, all effort is useless; though an angel from heaven should come

down and speak to them, his words would do no more good than if he were speaking into the cold ear of death.

**“The church must arouse to action.** The Spirit of God can never come in until she prepares the way. **There should be earnest searching of heart.** **There should be united, persevering prayer,** and through faith a claiming of the promises of God. There should be, not a clothing of the body with sackcloth, as in ancient times, but a deep humiliation of soul. We have not the first reason for self-congratulation and self-exaltation. We should humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. He will appear to comfort and bless the true seekers.

“The work is before us; will we engage in it? We must work fast, we must go steadily forward. We must be preparing for the great day of the Lord. **We have no time to lose, no time to be engaged in selfish purposes. The world is to be warned.** What are we doing as individuals to bring the light before others? God has left to every man his work; every one has a part to act, and we cannot neglect this work except at the peril of our souls.

“O my brethren, will you grieve the Holy Spirit, and cause it to depart? Will you shut out the blessed Saviour, because you are unprepared for His presence? **Will you leave souls to perish without the knowledge of the truth, because you love your ease too well to bear the burden that Jesus bore for you?** Let us awake out of sleep. ‘Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour’ (1 Peter 5:8).”—*1 Selected Messages, 126-127.*

“The Lord bade Joshua arise: ‘Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?’ Have I humbled without cause by removing My presence from thee? **Does God forsake His people without a cause?** No; He tells Joshua that there is a work for him to do before his prayer can be answered. ‘Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also.’ He declares: ‘Neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.’

“Here in this example we have some idea of the responsibility resting upon the church and the work that God requires them to do in order to have His presence. **It is a sin in any church not to search for the cause of their darkness and of the afflictions which have been in the midst of them.** The church in \_\_\_ cannot be a living, prosperous church until they are more awake to the wrongs among them, which hinder the blessing of God from

coming upon them. **The church should not suffer their brethren in affliction to be wronged.** These are the very ones that should awaken the sympathy of all hearts and call into exercise noble, benevolent feelings from all the followers of Christ. The true disciples of Christ will work in harmony with Him and, following His example, will help those who need help.”—*3 Testimonies, 520.*

**“I appeal to the churches in every conference. Stand out separate and distinct from the world**—in the world, but not of it, reflecting the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness, being pure, holy, and undefiled, and in faith carrying light into all the highways and byways of the earth.

**“Let the churches awake before it is everlastingly too late. Let every member take up his individual work and vindicate the name of the Lord** by which he is called. Let sound faith and earnest piety take the place of slothfulness and unbelief. When faith lays hold upon Christ, the truth will bring delight to the soul, and the services of religion will not be dull and uninteresting. Your social meetings, now tame and spiritless, will be vitalized by the Holy Spirit; daily you will have a rich experience as you practice the Christianity you profess. Sinners will be converted. They will be touched by the word of truth and will say, as did some who listened to Christ’s teaching: ‘We have seen and heard wonderful things today.’ ”—*6 Testimonies, 437.*

**“Sins exist in the church that God hates, but they are scarcely touched for fear of making enemies.** Opposition has risen in the church to the plain testimony. Some will not bear it.

**“They wish smooth things spoken unto them. And if the wrongs of individuals are touched,** they complain of severity, and sympathize with those in the wrong. As Ahab inquired of Elijah, ‘Art thou he that troubleth Israel?’ they are ready to look with suspicion and doubt upon those who bear the plain testimony, and like Ahab overlook the wrong which made it necessary for reproof and rebuke. **When the church depart from God they despise the plain testimony,** and complain of severity and harshness. It is a sad evidence of the lukewarm state of the church.

**“Just as long as God has a church, He will have those who will cry aloud and spare not, who will be His instruments to reprove selfishness and sins, and will not shun to declare the whole counsel of God,** whether men will hear or forbear. I saw that individuals would rise up against the plain testimonies. It does not suit their natural feelings. They would choose to have smooth things

spoken unto them, and have peace cried in their ears. **I view the church in a more dangerous condition than they ever have been.** Experimental religion is known but by a few. The shaking must soon take place to purify the church.”—*2 Spiritual Gifts, 283-284.*

“It is a solemn and terrible truth that many who have been zealous in proclaiming the third angel’s message are now becoming listless and indifferent! **The line of demarcation between worldlings and many professed Christians is almost indistinguishable. Many who once were earnest Adventists are conforming to the world**—to its practices, its customs, its selfishness. Instead of leading the world to render obedience to God’s law, the church is uniting more and more closely with the world in transgression. **Daily the church is becoming converted to the world.** How many professing Christians are slaves of mammon! Their indulgence of appetite, their extravagant expenditure of money for selfish gratification, greatly dishonors God.

“And through lack of zeal for the promulgation of the third angel’s message, **many others, while not apparently living in transgression, are nevertheless as verily lending their influence on the side of Satan as are those who openly sin against God.** Multitudes are perishing; but how few are burdened for these souls! **There is a stupor, a paralysis, upon many of the people of God,** which prevents them from understanding the duty of the hour.”—*8 Testimonies, 118-119.*

“It is necessary that every individual member build upon the Rock, Christ Jesus. **A storm is arising that will wrench and test the spiritual foundation of every one to the utmost. Therefore avoid the sand bed; hunt for the rock. Dig deep; lay your foundation sure.** Build, oh, build for eternity! Build with tears, with heartfelt prayers. Let every one of you from henceforth make your life beautiful by good works. **Calebs are the men most needed in these last days.** That which will make our churches vigorous and successful in their efforts is not bustle, but quiet, humble work; not parade and bombast, but patient, prayerful, persevering effort.

“**‘He that is not with Me,’ said Christ, ‘is against Me.’** It is wholehearted, thoroughly decided men and women who will stand now. Christ sifted His followers again and again, until at one time there remained only eleven and a few faithful women to lay the foundation of the Christian church. There are those who will stand back when burdens are to be borne; but when the church is all aglow, they catch the enthusiasm, sing and shout, and become

rapturous; but watch them. **When the fervor is gone, only a few faithful Calebs will come to the front and display unwavering principle.** These are salt that retains the savor. It is when the work moves hard that the churches develop the true helpers. These will not be talking of self, vindicating self, but will lose their identity in Jesus Christ. **To be great in God’s kingdom is to be a little child in humility, in simplicity of faith, and in the purity of love.** All pride must perish, all jealousy be overcome, all ambition for supremacy be given up, and the meekness and trust of the child be encouraged. All such will find Christ their rock of defense, their strong tower. In Him they may trust implicitly, and He will never fail them.

“**Oh, that all who believe present truth would be warned to seek the Lord.** The thoughts of God’s infinite mercy and of His matchless love should influence all to imitate His example.”—*5 Testimonies, 129-130.*

“**All who are not decided followers of Christ are servants of Satan.** In the unregenerate heart there is love of sin and a disposition to cherish and excuse it. In the renewed heart there is hatred of sin and determined resistance against it. **When Christians choose the society of the ungodly and unbelieving, they expose themselves to temptation.** Satan conceals himself from view and stealthily draws his deceptive covering over their eyes. They cannot see that such company is calculated to do them harm; and while all the time assimilating to the world in character, words, and actions, they are becoming more and more blinded.

“**Conformity to worldly customs converts the church to the world; it never converts the world to Christ.** Familiarity with sin will inevitably cause it to appear less repulsive. He who chooses to associate with the servants of Satan will soon cease to fear their master. **When in the way of duty we are brought into trial, as was Daniel in the king’s court, we may be sure that God will protect us;** but if we place ourselves under temptation we shall fall sooner or later.”—*Great Controversy, 508-509.*

“No man enters the portals of glory but he who sets his heart thitherward. Then let the questions come home, **Do you mind earthly things? Are your thoughts pure?** Are you breathing the atmosphere of heaven? Do you carry with you the miasma of pollution? Is your heart loving and worshipping a woman whom you have no right to love? Where is your heart? Where is your treasure? Where is your god? Have you been washing your robes of character, and making them white in the blood of the Lamb; or are you defiling your robes of charac-

ter with moral pollution? Let the ministers of the gospel apply this to themselves. **You are blessed with an understanding of the Scriptures, but is your eye single to the glory of God?** Are you earnest and devoted, serving God with purity and in the beauty of holiness? **Ask sincerely, Am I a child of God, or am I not?**

“Ye are the light of the world.’ What an impression was produced upon Darius by the conduct of Daniel! Daniel lived a pure and holy life. God was first with him. **Whenever real Christianity reigns in the heart, it will be revealed in the character.** All will take knowledge of such, that they have been with Jesus. **The undivided affections must be given to God.**”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 442-443.

“We need a thorough reformation in all our churches. **The converting power of God must come into the church. Seek the Lord most earnestly, put away your sins,** and tarry in Jerusalem till ye be endowed with power from on high. Let God set you apart to the work. **Purify your souls by obeying the truth. Faith without works is dead.** Put not off the day of preparation. Slumber not in a state of unpreparedness, having no oil in your vessels with your lamps. **Let none leave their safety for eternity to hang upon a peradventure.** Let not the question remain in perilous uncertainty. Ask yourselves earnestly, Am I among the saved, or the unsaved? Shall I stand, or shall I not stand? He only that hath clean hands and a pure heart shall stand in that day.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 443.

“**The trumpet note of warning must be sounded.** We are living in a fearfully wicked age. The worship of God will become corrupted unless there are wide-awake men at every post of duty. **It is no time now for any to be absorbed in selfish ease.** Not one of the words which God has spoken must be allowed to fall to the ground.

“While some in Battle Creek have professedly believed the *Testimonies*, they have been trampling them under their feet. But few have read them with interest; but few have heeded them. The indulgence of self, pride, fashion, and display are mingled with the worship of God. **He wants brave men for action, who will not regard the setting up of idols and the coming in of abominations without lifting up the voice like a trumpet,** showing the people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins.”—*4 Testimonies*, 517.

“The heavenly principles that distinguish those who are one with Christ from those who are one with the world have become almost indistinguishable. **The professed followers of Christ are no longer a separate and peculiar people. The line of demarcation is indistinct. The people are subordinating themselves to the world,** to its practices, its customs, its selfishness. The church has gone over to the world in transgression of the law, **when the world should have come over to the church in obedience to the law. Daily the church is being converted to the world.**

“All these expect to be saved by Christ’s death, while they refuse to live His self-sacrificing life. They extol the riches of free grace, and attempt to cover themselves with an appearance of righteousness, hoping to screen their defects of character; but their efforts will be of no avail in the day of God.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, 315-316.

“**In view of what might be done if the church would meet its God-given responsibilities, will its members sleep on,** or will they arouse to a sense of the honor conferred upon them through the merciful providence of God? Will they gather up their hereditary trusts, avail themselves of the present light, and feel the necessity of rising to meet the urgent emergency that now presents itself? **Oh, that all may arouse and manifest to the world that theirs is a living faith,** that a vital issue is before the world, that Jesus will soon come. Let men see that we believe that we are on the borders of the eternal world.

“**The upbuilding of the kingdom of God is retarded or urged forward according to the unfaithfulness or fidelity of human agencies.** The work is hindered by the failure of the human to cooperate with the divine. Men may pray, ‘Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven;’ but if they fail of acting out this prayer in their lives, their petitions will be fruitless.

“**But though you may be weak, erring, and sinful, the Lord holds out to you the offer of partnership with Himself.** He invites you to come under divine instruction. Uniting with Christ, you may work the works of God. ‘Without Me,’ Christ said, ‘ye can do nothing.’”—*6 Testimonies*, 437-438.

“**If we would only take the Lord at His word, what blessings might be ours!** Would that there were more fervent, effectual prayer. Christ will be

# Warnings to the Church

**PART TWO  
OF THREE**

Continued from the preceding tract in this series

the helper of all who seek Him in faith.”—5 Testimonies, 202.

“As the praying ones continued their earnest cries, at times a ray of light from Jesus came to them, to encourage their hearts and light up their countenances. **Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless.** They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones. **I saw angels of God hasten to the assistance of all who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels** and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them.

**“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans.** This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. **They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God’s people.**

**“I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded.** The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. **This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified.**”—Early Writings, 270.

**“While education, training, and the counsel of those of experience are all essential, the workers should be taught that they are not to rely wholly upon any man’s judgment.** As God’s free agents, all should ask wisdom of Him. When the learner depends wholly upon another’s thoughts, and goes no further than to accept his plans, he sees only through that man’s eyes and is, so far, only an echo of another. **God deals with men as responsible beings. He will work by His Spirit through the mind He has put in man,** if man will only give Him a chance to work and will recognize His dealings. **He designs that each shall use his**

**mind and conscience for himself.** He does not intend that one man shall become the shadow of another, uttering only another’s sentiments . . .

**“It is not the will of God that His people in Battle Creek should remain in their present condition of coldness and inaction** until by some mighty miracle-working power the church shall be aroused to life and activity. If we would be wise, and use diligently, prayerfully, and thankfully the means whereby light and blessing are to come to God’s people, then no power upon earth would be able to withhold these gifts from us. But **if we refuse God’s means we need not look for Him to work a miracle to give us light and vigor and power,** for this will never be done.”—5 Testimonies, 724-725.

**“The barriers which God’s Word places about His people are being broken down.** Men who are acquainted with the way in which God has led His people in the past, instead of inquiring for the old paths and defending our position as a peculiar people, have linked hands with the world. **The most alarming feature in the case is that warning voices have not been heard in remonstrance, entreaties, and warnings.** The eyes of God’s people seem to be blinded, while the church is fast drifting into the channel of worldliness.”—4 Testimonies, 513.

“I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people. **The Lord has not closed heaven to us, but our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God.** Pride, covetousness, and love of the world have lived in the heart without fear of banishment or condemnation. Grievous and presumptuous sins have dwelt among us. **And yet the general opinion is that the church is flourishing and that peace and spiritual prosperity are in all her borders.**

**“The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt.** Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. **Doubt, and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches everywhere.** Satan would have it thus. Ministers who preach self instead of Christ would have it thus. **The testimonies are unread and unappreciated.** God has spoken to you. Light has been shining from His Word and from the testimonies, and both have been slighted and disregarded. The result is apparent in the lack of

purity and devotion and earnest faith among us.

**“Let each put the question to his own heart: ‘How have we fallen into this state of spiritual feebleness and dissension? Have we not brought upon ourselves the frown of God because our actions do not correspond with our faith? Have we not been seeking the friendship and applause of the world rather than the presence of Christ and a deeper knowledge of His will?’** Examine your own hearts, judge your own course. Consider what associates you are choosing. **Do you seek the company of the wise, or are you willing to choose worldly associates,** companions who fear not God and obey not the gospel?

**“Are your recreations such as to impart moral and spiritual vigor?** Will they lead to purity of thought and action? Impurity is today widespread, even among the professed followers of Christ. Passion is unrestrained; the animal propensities are gaining strength by indulgence, while the moral powers are constantly becoming weaker. **Many are eagerly participating in worldly, demoralizing amusements which God’s Word forbids.** Thus they sever their connection with God and rank themselves with the pleasure lovers of the world. The sins that destroyed the antediluvians and the cities of the plain exist today—not merely in heathen lands, not only among popular professors of Christianity, but with some who profess to be looking for the coming of the Son of man. **If God should present these sins before you as they appear in His sight, you would be filled with shame and terror.**

“And what has caused this alarming condition? **Many have accepted the theory of the truth who have had no true conversion.** I know whereof I speak. **There are few who feel true sorrow for sin,** who have deep, pungent convictions of the depravity of the unregenerate nature. The heart of stone is not exchanged for a heart of flesh. Few are willing to fall upon the Rock and be broken.

**“No matter who you are or what your life has been, you can be saved only in God’s appointed way.** You must repent; you must fall helpless on the Rock, Christ Jesus. You must feel your need of a physician and of the one only remedy for sin, the blood of Christ. **This remedy can be secured only by repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.**”—5 *Testimonies*, 217-218.

**“Jerusalem is a representation of what the church will be if it refuses to walk in the light that God has given.** Jerusalem was favored of God as the depository of sacred trusts. **But her people perverted the truth, and despised all entreaties and warnings.** They would not respect His counsels. The temple courts were polluted with

merchandise and robbery. Selfishness and love of mammon, envy and strife, were cherished. Every one sought for gain from his quarter.”—8 *Testimonies*, 67.

**“A deadly spiritual malady is upon the church.** Its members are wounded by Satan; but they will not look to the cross of Christ, as the Israelites looked to the brazen serpent, that they may live. **The world has so many claims upon them that they have not time to look to the cross of Calvary** long enough to see its glory or to feel its power. When they now and then catch a glimpse of the self-denial and self-dedication which the truth demands, it is unwelcome, and **they turn their attention in another direction, that they may the sooner forget it.** The Lord cannot make His people useful and efficient while they are not careful to comply with the conditions He has laid down.”—5 *Testimonies*, 202-203.

**“Many who should stand firm for righteousness and truth have manifested weakness and indecision that have encouraged the assaults of Satan.** Those who fail to grow in grace, not seeking to reach the highest standard in divine attainments, will be overcome.

“This world is to the Christian a land of strangers and enemies. **Unless he shall take for his defense the divine panoply and wield the sword of the Spirit he will become the prey of the powers of darkness.** The faith of all will be tested. All will be tried as gold is tried in the fire.

“The church is composed of imperfect, erring men and women, who call for the continual exercise of charity and forbearance. **But there has been a long period of general lukewarmness; a worldly spirit coming into the church** has been followed by alienation, faultfinding, malice, strife, and iniquity.

**“Should there be less sermonizing by men who are unconsecrated in heart and life, and were more time devoted to humbling the soul before God,** then might we hope that the Lord would appear to your help and heal your backslidings. **Much of the preaching of late begets a false security.** Important interests in the cause of God cannot be wisely managed by those who have had so little real connection with God as some of our ministers have had. **To entrust the work to such men is like setting children to manage great vessels at sea.** Those who are destitute of heavenly wisdom, destitute of living power with God, are not competent to steer the gospel ship amid icebergs and tempests. **The church is passing through severe conflicts, but in her peril**

**many would trust her to hands that will surely wreck her.** We need a pilot on board now, for we are nearing the harbor. As a people we should be the light of the world. But how many are foolish virgins, having no oil in their vessels with their lamps. May the Lord of all grace, abundant in mercy, full of forgiveness, pity and save us, that we perish not with the wicked!"—5 *Testimonies*, 104-105.

"Extravagance, overreaching, extortion, are corrupting the faith of many and destroying their spirituality. **The church is in a great degree responsible for the sins of her members. She gives countenance to evil if she fails to lift her voice against it.**

"The customs of the world are no criterion for the Christian. **He is not to imitate its sharp practices**, its overreaching, its extortion."—*Prophets and Kings*, 651-652.

"Sin and sinners in the church must be promptly dealt with, that others may not be contaminated. **Truth and purity require that we make more thorough work to cleanse the camp from Achans.** Let those in responsible positions not suffer sin in a brother. **Show him that he must either put away his sins or be separated from the church.**

"When the individual members of the church shall act as true followers of the meek and lowly Saviour, **there will be less covering up and excusing of sin.** All will strive to act as if in God's presence."—5 *Testimonies*, 147.

"**There are a few men of unswerving fidelity who do not study ease, convenience,** or life itself, who push their way wherever they can find an opening to press the light of truth and vindicate the holy law of God. **But the sins that control the world have come into the churches,** and into the hearts of those who claim to be God's peculiar people. **Many who have received the light exert an influence to quiet the fears of worldlings and formal professors.** There are lovers of the world even among those who profess to be waiting for the Lord. There is ambition for riches and honor. **Christ describes this class when He declares that the day of God is to come as a snare** upon all that dwell upon the earth. This world is their home.

"**They make it their business to secure earthly treasures.** They erect costly dwellings and furnish them with every good thing; **they find pleasure in dress and the indulgence of appetite.** The things of the world are their idols. These interpose between the soul and Christ, and the solemn and awful realities that are crowding upon us are but dimly seen and faintly realized.

"**The same disobedience and failure which**

**were seen in the Jewish church have characterized in a greater degree the people who have had this great light from heaven** in the last messages of warning. **Shall we, like them, squander our opportunities and privileges until God shall permit oppression and persecution to come upon us?** Will the work which might be performed in peace and comparative prosperity be left undone until it must be performed in days of darkness, under the pressure of trial and persecution?"—5 *Testimonies*, 456-457.

"In these final hours of probation for the sons of men, when the fate of every soul is so soon to be decided forever, **the Lord of heaven and earth expects His church to arouse to action as never before.** Those who have been made free in Christ, through a knowledge of precious truth, are regarded by the Lord Jesus as His chosen ones, favored above all other people on the face of the earth; and **He is counting on them** to show forth the praises of Him who hath called them out of darkness into marvelous light. **The blessings which are so liberally bestowed are to be communicated** to others. The good news of salvation is to go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people."—*Prophets and Kings*, 716.

"**Wickedness and deception are increasing among God's people who profess to keep His commandments.** Spiritual discernment to see sin as it exists, and then to put it out of the camp, is decreasing among God's people; and spiritual blindness is fast coming upon them. **The straight testimony must be revived, and it will separate** those from Israel who have ever been at war with the means that God has ordained to keep corruptions out of the church. **Wrongs must be called wrongs.** Grievous sins must be called by their right name. All of God's people should come nearer to Him and wash their robes of character in the blood of the Lamb. Then will they see sin in the true light and will realize how offensive it is in the sight of God."—3 *Testimonies*, 324.

"Never was the confederacy of evil stronger than at the present time. Spirits of evil are combining with human agencies to war against the commandments of God. Tradition and falsehood are exalted above the Scriptures; reason and science above revelation; human talent above the teaching of the Spirit; forms and ceremonies above the vital power of godliness. **Grievous sins have separated the people from God. Infidelity is fast becoming fashionable.** 'We will not have this man to reign over us,' is the language of thousands. **God's ministers must lift up the voice like a trumpet, and show**

**the people their transgressions.** The smooth sermons so often preached make no lasting impression. **Men are not cut to the heart, because the plain, sharp truths of the Word of God are not spoken to them.**

“Many of those who profess to believe the truth would say, if they expressed their real sentiments, What need is there of speaking so plainly? They might as well ask, Why need John the Baptist have said to the Pharisees, ‘O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’ Matt. 3:7. Why need he have provoked the anger of Herodias by telling Herod that it was unlawful for him to live with his brother’s wife? **He lost his life by speaking so plainly.** Why could he not have moved along without incurring the anger of Herodias?

“So men have argued, till policy has taken the place of faithfulness. Sin is allowed to go unrebuked. **When will be heard once more in the church the voice of faithful rebuke, ‘Thou art the man’?** 2 Sam. 12:7. **If these words were not so rare, we should see more of the power of God.** The Lord’s messengers should not complain of their efforts being fruitless until they repent of their love of approbation, their desire to please men, which leads them to suppress the truth, and to cry, Peace, when God has not spoken peace.

“**Would that every minister of God realized the holiness of his work and the sacredness of his calling.** As divinely appointed messengers, ministers are in a position of awful responsibility. In Christ’s stead they are to labor as stewards of the mysteries of heaven, encouraging the obedient and warning the disobedient. **Worldly policy is to have no weight with them.** Never are they to swerve from the path in which Jesus has bidden them walk. They are to go forward in faith, remembering that they are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. They are not to speak their own words, but the words that One greater than the potentates of earth has bidden them speak. **Their message is to be, ‘Thus saith the Lord.’**

“**God calls for men who, like Nathan, Elijah, and John, will bear His message with fearlessness, regardless of consequences; who will speak the truth, though to do this calls for the sacrifice of all they have.**”—*Gospel Workers*, 149-150.

“This promised blessing [of the Holy Spirit], if claimed by faith, would bring all other blessings in

its train, and it is to be given liberally to the people of God.

“**Through the cunning devices of the enemy the minds of God’s people seem to be incapable of comprehending and appropriating the promises of God.** They seem to think that only the scantiest showers of grace are to fall upon the thirsty soul. **The people of God have accustomed themselves to think that they must rely upon their own efforts, that little help is to be received from heaven;** and the result is that they have little light to communicate to other souls who are dying in error and darkness.

“**The church has long been contented with little of the blessing of God;** they have not felt the need of reaching up to the exalted privileges purchased for them at infinite cost. **Their spiritual strength has been feeble, their experience of a dwarfed and crippled character,** and they are disqualified for the work the Lord would have them to do. They are not able to present the great and glorious truths of God’s Holy Word that would convict and convert souls through the agency of the Holy Spirit. **The power of God awaits their demand and reception.** A harvest of joy will be reaped by those who sow the holy seeds of truth. ‘He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.’ ”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 174-175.

“**It is the absence of the Spirit that makes the gospel ministry so powerless.** Learning, talent, eloquence, every natural or acquired endowment, may be possessed; but, without the presence of the Spirit of God, no heart will be touched, no sinner won to Christ. **On the other hand, if they are connected with Christ, if the gifts of the Spirit are theirs, the poorest and most ignorant of His disciples will have a power that will tell upon hearts.** God makes them channels for the outflowing of the highest influence in the universe.

“Why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit, since this is the means by which we are to receive power? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, preach concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to us than parents are to give good gifts to their children. **For the baptism of the Spirit every worker should be pleading with God. Companies should be gathered together to ask for special help,** for heavenly wisdom, that they may know how to plan and execute wisely. Espe-

# Warnings to the Church

**PART THREE  
OF THREE**

Continued from the preceding tract in this series

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cially should men pray that God will baptize His missionaries with the Holy Spirit.

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“The presence of the Spirit with God’s workers will give the presentation of the truth a power that not all the honor or glory of the world could give. **The Spirit furnishes the strength that sustains striving, wrestling souls in every emergency,** amidst the unfriendliness of relatives, the hatred of the world, and the realization of their own imperfections and mistakes.

“Zeal for God moved the disciples to bear witness to the truth with mighty power. Should not this zeal fire our hearts with a determination to tell the story of redeeming love, of Christ and Him crucified? **Is not the Spirit of God to come today, in answer to earnest, persevering prayer, and fill men with power for service? Why, then, is the church so weak and spiritless?**

“**It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.** Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.

“My brethren and sisters, plead for the Holy Spirit. **God stands back of every promise He has made.** With your Bibles in your hands, say: ‘I have done as Thou hast said. I present Thy promise. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.’ Christ declares: ‘What things soever ye desire, **when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.**’ ‘Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.’ Matthew 7:7; Mark 11:24; John 14:13.

“The rainbow about the throne is an assurance that God is true; that in Him is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. **We have sinned against Him and are undeserving of His favor; yet He Himself has put into our lips that most wonderful of pleas: ‘Do not abhor us, for Thy name’s sake,** do not disgrace the throne of Thy glory: remember, break not Thy covenant with us.’ Jeremiah 14:21. **He has pledged Himself to give heed to our cry when we come to Him confessing our unworthiness and sin. The honor of His throne is staked for the fulfillment of His word to us.**—

*8 Testimonies, 21-23.*

“Solemn admonitions of warning, manifest in the destruction of dearly cherished facilities for service, say to us: ‘Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works.’ Revelation 2:5. **Why is there so dim a perception of the true spiritual condition of the church?** Has not blindness fallen upon the watchmen standing on the walls of Zion? **Are not many of God’s servants unconcerned and well satisfied,** as if the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night rested upon the sanctuary? **Are there not those in positions of responsibility, professing to know God, who in life and character deny Him?** Are not many of those who count themselves as His chosen, peculiar people satisfied to live without the evidence that, of a truth, God is among them to save them from Satan’s snares and attacks?

“**Would we not now have much greater light if, in the past, we had received the Lord’s admonitions, acknowledged His presence, and turned away from all practices contrary to His will?** Had we done this, the light of heaven would have shone into the soul-temple, enabling us to comprehend the truth and to love God supremely and our neighbors as ourselves. **Oh, how greatly Christ is dishonored by those who, professing to be Christians, disgrace the name they bear by failing to make their lives correspond to their profession,** by failing to treat one another with the love and respect that God expects them to reveal in kind words and courteous acts!

“The powers from beneath are stirred with deep intensity. War and bloodshed are the result. The moral atmosphere is poisoned with cruel, horrible doings. The spirit of strife is spreading; it abounds in every place. Many souls are being taken possession of by the spirit of fraud, or underhand dealing. **Many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. They do not discern what spirit has taken possession of them.**”—*8 Testimonies, 248-249.*

“**There are few really consecrated men among us, few who have fought and conquered in the battle with self.** Real conversion is a decided change of feelings and motives; **it is a virtual taking leave of worldly connections, a hastening from their spiritual atmosphere,** a withdrawing from the controlling power of their thoughts,

opinions, and influences. The separation causes pain and bitterness to both parties. It is the variance which Christ declares that He came to bring. But the converted will feel a continual longing desire that their friends shall forsake all for Christ, knowing that, unless they do, there will be a final and eternal separation. **The true Christian cannot, while with unbelieving friends, be light and trifling.** The value of the souls for whom Christ died is too great.

“He ‘that forsaketh not all that he hath,’ says Jesus, ‘cannot be My disciple.’ **Whatever shall divert the affections from God must be given up.** Mammon is the idol of many. Its golden chain binds them to Satan. Reputation and worldly honor are worshiped by another class. The life of selfish ease and freedom from responsibility is the idol of others. **These are Satan’s snares, set for unwary feet. But these slavish bands must be broken;** the flesh must be crucified with the affections and lusts. **We cannot be half the Lord’s and half the world’s. We are not God’s people unless we are such entirely.** Every weight, every besetting sin, must be laid aside. God’s watchmen will not cry, ‘Peace, peace,’ when God has not spoken peace. The voice of the faithful watchmen will be heard: ‘Go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.’

“**The church cannot measure herself by the world nor by the opinion of men nor by what she once was. Her faith and her position in the world as they now are must be compared with what they would have been if her course had been continually onward and upward.** The church will be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary. **If her moral character and spiritual state do not correspond with the benefits and blessings God has conferred upon her, she will be found wanting.**”—5 Testimonies, 82-83.

“**When brethren manifest the spirit of the dragon, to make war upon those who believe that God has communicated light and comfort to them through the Testimonies, it is time for the brethren and sisters to assert their liberty and perfect freedom of conscience.** God has given them light, and it is their privilege to cherish the light and to speak of it to strengthen and encourage one another.”—4 Testimonies, 245-246.

“**After this I saw Satan consulting with his angels and considering what they had gained.** True, they had, through fear of death, kept some timid souls from embracing the truth; but many, even of the most timid, had received the truth, and

thereupon their fears and timidity immediately left them. As these witnessed the death of their brethren and beheld their firmness and patience, they knew that God and angels assisted them to endure such sufferings, and they grew bold and fearless. And when called to yield their own lives, they maintained their faith with such patience and firmness as caused even their murderers to tremble.

“**Satan and his angels decided that there was a more successful way to destroy souls, one that would be more certain in the end.** Although Christians were made to suffer, their steadfastness, and the bright hope that cheered them, caused the weakest to grow strong and enabled them to approach the rack and the flames undaunted. They imitated the noble bearing of Christ when before His murderers, and by their constancy and the glory of God which rested upon them, they convinced many others of the truth.

“Satan therefore decided that he must come in a milder form. He had already corrupted the doctrines of the Bible, and traditions which were to ruin millions were taking deep root. **Restraining his hate, he decided not to urge on his subjects to such bitter persecution, but lead the church to contend for various traditions, instead of for the faith once delivered to the saints.**

“**As he prevailed on the church to receive favors and honors from the world, under the pretense of receiving benefits, she began to lose favor with God.** Shunning to declare the straight truths which shut out the lovers of pleasure and friends of the world, she gradually lost her power.

“**The church is not now the separate and peculiar people she was when the fires of persecution were kindled against her.** How is the gold become dim! how is the most fine gold changed! I saw that if the church had always retained her peculiar, holy character, the power of the Holy Spirit which was imparted to the disciples would still be with her. The sick would be healed, devils would be rebuked and cast out, and she would be mighty and a terror to her enemies.

“**I saw a very large company professing the name of Christ, but God did not recognize them as His.** He had no pleasure in them. **Satan seemed to assume a religious character and was very willing that the people should think they were Christians.** He was even anxious that they should believe in Jesus, His crucifixion, and His resurrection. Satan and his angels fully believe all this themselves, and tremble. **But if this faith does not provoke to good works, and lead those who profess it to imitate the self-denying life of Christ, Satan is not disturbed;** for they merely assume the

Christian name, while their hearts are still carnal, and he can use them in his service even better than if they made no profession. **Hiding their deformity under the name of Christian, they pass along with their unsanctified natures**, and their evil passions unsubdued. This gives occasion for the unbeliever to reproach Christ with their imperfections, and causes those who do possess pure and undefiled religion to be brought into disrepute.

**“The ministers preach smooth things to suit carnal professors. They dare not preach Jesus and the cutting truths of the Bible; for if they should, these carnal professors would not remain in the church.** But as many of them are wealthy, they must be retained, although they are no more fit to be there than Satan and his angels. This is just as Satan would have it. **The religion of Jesus is made to appear popular and honorable in the eyes of the world.** The people are told that those who profess religion will be more honored by the world. Such teachings differ very widely from the teachings of Christ. His doctrine and the world could not be at peace. Those who followed Him had to renounce the world. These smooth things originated with Satan and his angels. They formed the plan, and nominal professors carried it out. **Pleasing fables were taught and readily received, and hypocrites and open sinners united with the church.** If the truth had been preached in its purity, it would soon have shut out this class. **But there was no difference between the professed followers of Christ and the world.** I saw that if the false covering had been torn off from the members of the churches, there would have been revealed such iniquity, vileness, and corruption that the most diffident child of God would have had no hesitancy in calling these professed Christians by their right name, children of their father, the devil; for his works they did.

**“Jesus and all the heavenly host looked with disgust upon the scene;** yet God had a message for the church that was sacred and important. If received, it would make a thorough reformation in the church, revive the living testimony that would purge out hypocrites and sinners, and bring the church again into favor with God.”—*Early Writings*, 226-228.

**“Satan is opposed to everything that will strengthen the cause of Christ and weaken his own power. He is diligently laying plans to undermine the work of God.** He never rests for a moment when he sees that the right is gaining the ascendancy. He has legions of evil angels that he sends to every point where light from heaven is shining upon the people. Here he stations his pickets to

seize every unguarded man, woman, or child and press them into his service.

**“The great heart of the work is at \_\_; and, as the human heart throws its living current of blood into all parts of the body, so does the management at this place, the headquarters of our church, affect the whole body of believers.** If the physical heart is healthy, the blood that is sent from it through the system is also healthy; but if this fountain is impure, the whole organism becomes diseased by the poison of the vital fluid. So it is with us. **If the heart of the work becomes corrupt, the whole church, in its various branches and interests, scattered abroad over the face of the earth, suffers in consequence.**

**“Satan’s chief work is at the headquarters of our faith. He spares no pains to corrupt men in responsible positions and to persuade them to be unfaithful to their several trusts.** He insinuates his suspicions and jealousies into the minds of those whose business it is to do God’s work faithfully. While God is testing and proving these helpers, and fitting them for their posts, **Satan is doing his utmost to deceive and allure them, that they may not only be destroyed themselves, but may influence others to do wrong and to injure the great work.**

**“He seeks by all the means in his power to shake the confidence of God’s people in the voice of warning and reproof through which God designs to purify the church and prosper His cause.**

**“It is Satan’s plan to weaken the faith of God’s people in the Testimonies.** Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. **When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this;** and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction.

**“Satan has gained marked advantage in \_\_ because the people of God have not guarded the outposts.** The very men whose labors God has signified that He would accept if they were fully consecrated have been the ones to be deceived, to fail in their duties, and to prove a terrible burden and discouragement, instead of the help and blessing that they should have been. **These men who have been trusted to keep the fort have well-nigh betrayed it into the hands of the enemy. They have opened the gates to a wily foe, who has sought to destroy them.**

**“Men of experience have seen stealthy hands slipping the bolts that Satan might enter; yet they have held their peace with apparent indifference as to the results.** Some have been glad to see this, as it seemed an extenuation of their past neglect, which made it a necessity to call for others to fill the posts of responsibility that they had abused or neglected. **This lack of watchfulness on the part of these newer incumbents seemed to excuse the former for their own want of faithfulness,** as it showed that others were fully as derelict in duty. These persons do not realize that God holds them responsible for every advantage gained by the foe who is admitted to the fort. **The desolation and ruin following lie at the door of the unfaithful sentinels,** who, by their neglect, become agents in the hands of the adversary to win souls to destruction. **Men in responsible positions should seek wisdom and guidance of God, and not trust to their own judgment and knowledge.** Like Solomon they should earnestly pray for faith and light, and God will give them freely of His abundant supply.”—4 *Testimonies*, 210-212.

**“There are times when a distinct view is presented to me of the condition of the remnant church, a condition of appalling indifference to the needs of a world perishing for lack of a knowledge of the truth for this time.** Then I have hours, and sometimes days, of intense anguish. Many to whom have been committed the saving truths of the third angel’s message fail of realizing that **the salvation of souls is dependent upon the consecration and activity of God’s church.** Many are using their blessings in the service of self. Oh, how my heart aches because Christ is put to shame by their un-Christlike behavior! But, after the agony is past, I feel like working harder than ever to arouse them to put forth unselfish effort for the saving of their fellow men.

“God has made His people stewards of His grace and truth, and how does He regard their neglect to impart these blessings to their fellow men? **Let us suppose that a distant colony belonging to Great Britain is in great distress because of famine and threatened war.** Multitudes are dying of starvation, and a powerful enemy is gathering on the frontier, threatening to hasten the work of death. The government at home opens its stores; public charity pours forth; relief flows through many channels. **A fleet is freighted with the precious means**

**of life** and is sent to the scene of suffering, accompanied by the prayers of those whose hearts are stirred to help. And for a time the fleet sails directly for its destination. **But, having lost sight of land, the ardor of those entrusted with carrying food to the starving sufferers abates.** Though engaged in a work that makes them colaborers with angels, they lose the good impressions with which they started forth. **Through evil counselors, temptation enters.**

“A group of islands lies in their course, and, though far short of their destination, they decide to call. **The temptation that has already entered grows stronger.** The selfish spirit of gain takes possession of their minds. **Mercantile advantages present themselves.** Those in charge of the fleet are prevailed on to remain on the islands. Their original purpose of mercy fades from their sight. They forget the starving people to whom they were sent. The stores entrusted to them are used for their own benefit. The means of beneficence is diverted into channels of selfishness. **They barter the means of life for selfish gain, and leave their fellow beings to die.** The cries of the perishing ascend to heaven, and the Lord writes in His record the tale of robbery.

**“Think of the horror of human beings dying because those placed in charge of the means of relief proved unfaithful to their trust.** It is difficult for us to realize that man could be guilty of so terrible a sin. Yet I am instructed to say to you, my brother, my sister, that Christians are daily repeating this sin.”—8 *Testimonies*, 24-25.

“There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hinderance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation . . . Wicked men and devils cannot hinder the work of God or shut out His presence from the assemblies of His people, if they will with subdued, contrite hearts confess and put away their sins, and in faith claim His promises.”—1 *Selected Messages*, 124.

**“The world must not be introduced into the church, and married to the church, forming a bond of unity. Through this means the church will become indeed corrupt** and, as stated in Revelation, ‘a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.’”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 265.

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The Lord bless thee,  
and keep thee:  
The Lord make His  
face shine upon thee,  
and be gracious unto  
thee: The Lord lift  
up His countenance  
upon thee, and give  
thee peace.  
Numbers 6:24-26